(b) whether it is a fact that ultimately it is the consumer to whom these duties, levies and cesses are passed on and therefor the recovery of the same by manufacturers or importers is unjustified;

(c) whether there is a proposal under Government consideration to make suitable provisions in all the relevant statutes prohibiting such refunds; and

(d) whether such a step will make available huge funds to Central and State Governments and local bodies which otherwise unduly go to traders and dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is true that generally the incidence of such levels is passed on to the consumers.

(c) and (d) Government is presently examining the feasibility of making suitable legal provisions in the Central Excises & Salt Act, 1944 and in the Customs Act, 1962 so as to ensure that there is no fortuitous benefit to the assessees who have recovered from their customers the duties which they have paid to the Government.

Difference between the premium paid and refund granted by LIC on surrendered policy

2074. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to answer to Unstarred Question 2716 given in Rajya Sabha on 19th March, 1987 and state:

(a) the total amount forfeited by the LIC i.e. the difference between the premium paid and refund granted from the policy holders whose policies were surrendered to or forfeited by LIC during the last three years; and

(b) what was the amount paid by LIC to the Agents etc. in respect of such policy holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The LIC does not maintain records required to give the relevant information. Further the compilation of such data would be administratively complex and would involve labour, time and expenses not commensurate with the result.

Branches of nationalised banks in Punjab

2075. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked Nationalised Banks not to open new branches in Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the period upto which this ban is likely to remain in force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Academic study group on problems of Sainik Schools

2076. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sainik Schools Society has appointed an Academic Study Group to go into the problems of employees of Sainik Schools;

(b) if so, whether this group has submitted its report;

(c) if so, what are its recommendations;

(d) whether Government have accepted the recommendations;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and if not what are the reasons therefor; and